

# Drama Workshop

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years, never venturing "outside." Cohn, an ex-musician, and Abe, a former stockbroker, lead lives of endless quibbling with their crotchety arguments over food and philosophy punctuated by Abe's occasional single tap on the typewriter.

Exasperated during a squabble, Cohn petulantly wishes for intelligent comp-

any, and gets more than he asked for with the appearance of a mad magus named Wiseman, a cross between Mephistopheles and Groucho. Wiseman thereafter appears in several incarnations...as a riverboat gambler, an octogenarian mailman, a doddering judge.

Cohn and Abe's isolated lives are further jolted when a knock at their door announces

Joan of Arc, clad in blazing armor with sword and pennant at the ready. She informs them that her mission is to recruit two of every species, including them, for a spaceship trip to heaven.

With helium-light hilarity, intelligence and a sharp eye for satire, "Knock, Knock" audaciously explores the prickly realm of fantasy. It is a play of comic invention for

those who like their theatre with a touch of tenderness, a dash of wry observation, a large helping of humanity.

Appearing as Joan of Arc is Meredith Fink, a senior at Cohasset High who has appeared in every Drama Workshop production since she entered high school and who was named one of only 15 members of the prestigious All-New England Cast. In the fall, she will appear in the title role in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie."

A second member of the All-New England Cast is James Vivian, who will play the ubiquitous Wiseman, a mixture of Satan and Groucho Marx. Vivian plans to study theatre at Boston University in the fall.

Abe will be portrayed by Eric Joseph, a 1977 graduate of Cohasset High School and student in the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Syra-

cuse University. This will be Joseph's farewell performance before leaving for a year of study abroad. With the Drama Workshop he has appeared in "Godspell," "The Fantasticks," "Hold Me!," and as Conrad Birdie in "Bye Bye Birdie."

Kurt Rever, who is a teacher of social studies at Cohasset High and a graduate of Clark University, will appear as Cohn. This is the second summer that Rever has worked with the Drama Workshop. Last year he was featured as one of the fathers in "The Fantasticks" and most recently appeared in "Hold Me!"

Stage Manager for "Knock, Knock" is Caroline Wampole, a recent transfer to Cohasset High School who has had a great deal of theatre experience. She and Susanna Mastrobuono will also "appear" as Joan's voices.



COUNSELLOR PAM GUNVILLE enjoys a swim with friends at the Swim Center.

## Elderly Woman's Death Causes Concern Among Residents And Officials

The Board of Health and concerned residents Monday discussed the recent death of an elderly woman at 254 Beechwood Street and the subsequent cleanup of the house which was called "not fit for human habitation."

A telephone call to the Fire Department by Walter Egan, a man in his seventies and owner of the Beechwood Street home, first alerted officials that his companion, Frances Kent, 84, had died. Medical examiner Dr. Roger Pompeo was called to the scene on August 2 and after an autopsy ascertained that the woman had died of natural causes 12 to 24 hours before. Egan was admitted, voluntarily, to Medfield State Hospital.

Pompeo, as chairman of the Board of Health, explained that the condition of the house was such that he notified Health Agent Kevin O'Brien and Marilyn Sweeney of the board to conduct an inspection. Pompeo's medical reports, which evinced emotional disturbances in the elderly couple, served as the reason to obtain a search warrant from Quincy District Court.

Inspection of the single family house was made on August 7 by O'Brien and

Sweeney, accompanied by Patrolman Gerry Doyle and Firefighter Richard Conley. An inspection in accordance with Article II of the state Sanitation Code was difficult to conduct, O'Brien reported, due to the amount of decaying refuse, garbage and filth that piled throughout every room of the house, an accumulation of many years.

"It was very difficult to even walk through the house: every room, porch, bath and garage were full of rubbish and old clothes," O'Brien's report reads. "I could not use the stove, the second floor bath, see the floors or try electrical outlets; rodent presence could not be determined," O'Brien continued.

"This dwelling is unfit for human habitation and is a public nuisance by reason of being a fire hazard," he concluded.

"O'Brien said at the meeting that four dump truck loads of garbage have already been removed from the home as a part of the cleanup which will continue the rest of the week. O'Brien found one working toilet downstairs. The dwelling will have to be fumigated, he said.

Two oxygen cylinders found at the residence had been

prescribed for Miss Kent and were delivered to the house around the time of her death. The cylinders, regulator and stand were removed by an employee of South Shore Medical Supply.

Pompeo questioned the Beechwood Street neighbors in attendance why the matter had never been brought to the board's attention. "From the exterior of the house, it looks as though something had gone wrong," he said, noting that anyone can notify a Board of Health if unhealthful conditions are suspected.

One resident responded, "It's very difficult to assess. We weren't seeing these people regularly. They were living behind closed blinds. Do you call the Board of Health?" she asked.

Board member Sweeney suggested that the Coastal Community Counseling Services support a group of concerned neighbors concerning the future of the residence.

The Police Department has been and will provide security for valuables that remain in the house. Attorney Joan Fisher is handling Egan's personal and financial matters.

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